

ANOTHER 'LIFELINE' UNIT CLOSES

FAMILY Help Units were set up by The Spastics Society as a lifeline for parents. Places where they could leave their children in safe, loving hands at times of family crisis or simply because hard-pressed mothers just had to have a break from the 24-hour care of a heavily handicapped spastic child. At one time, the Society

hoped to have a network of them throughout the country.

But the units are very expensive to run. Most of the children staying at them are both mentally and physically handicapped, calling for a very high ratio of staff. Running costs are heavy, and parents have found many local authorities increasingly reluctant to pay the necessarily high fees for a short stay.

In April, the family help unit at Nottingham was closed. At the same time, the unit at

Southampton — running at a big deficit — was handed over to the Southampton and District Spastics Association. Aided by an Area Health Authority grant, the voluntary group will keep the centre going for a year as a vital community service, but after that a question mark hangs over its future.

Now comes the news that the family help unit at Trengweath Spastics Centre, Plymouth, Devon, will close its

doors at the end of August. Hundreds of spastic children have stayed there since the unit opened 10 years ago, and parents found that expected 'lifeline.'

The closure was forced on the Society for two reasons. High running costs leading to heavy annual deficits, due to under-use by local authorities.

Says Mr Derek Lancaster-Gaye, the Society's Director of Resources:

'Much as we regret any with-

drawal of services, we just cannot afford to cope with such high revenue costs in the present financial climate. Now those local authorities who made use of the unit for occasional short-term care must accept full responsibility for the children who will be displaced.'

Happily, however, the unit will not stand empty. It will become a small boarding unit for spastic children attending the Society's adjoining Treng-

weath School, and whose homes are in remote areas of Devon and Cornwall.

Fortunately, too, the Society still has two remaining family help units to provide that vital break for parents. One is at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and cares for children aged between two and 16 years. The second is at Oxford, and caters for handicapped people aged 14 and over. Both accept residents from all over England and Wales.

Will Scotland's new centre be saved?

THE Scottish New Trinity Centre opened less than a year ago as a unique unit for the disabled in Edinburgh and then threatened with closure, looks like getting a reprieve.

The Scottish Council for Spastics asked the Lothian Regional Council for £90,000 to save the centre, and at its meeting in July the social work sub-committee recommended a grant of £77,000.

Said Commander Archie Cameron, the Council's Director: 'I'm confident, but cautious.'

'This is only a committee recommendation. It has to go before the Finance Committee which at present is discussing the matter with us about how the money can be found. And then it will have to go before a meeting of the full Lothian Regional Council.'

Fears grew about the £1-million centre's future in June. A total of 150 handicapped people were to attend the centre, but in April the figure was cut to 80. The reason was a cut-back in local authority spending but it meant that New Trinity, offering an almost unrivalled range of facilities and the most modern of its type in Britain did not have the funds to keep going.

'Yet for me,' said Stephen O'Neill, General Manager,

'one of the most disturbing problems is that Lothian Region's own register shows there are still 377 disabled people waiting for day centre places, yet the local authority is denying 70 of them the chance to come here!'

Said Commander Cameron of the proposed £77,000 grant: 'It will be the end of August before we know for certain if we are to get the money.'

But it's business as usual in Suffolk

THE Society's only remaining Family Help Unit for young children is thriving at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and it is 'business as usual' for the busy holiday season.

Children pictured playing there this week were happily enjoying their stay — unaware of the financial problems which forced closures elsewhere.



Pension for disabled housewives

The news that thousands of families have been waiting for came on July 26 when Minister for the Disabled, Mr Alf Morris, said that a non-contributory pension of £10.50 a week for disabled housewives will begin in November.

Payment of the pension, which is expected to help 40,000 women, will begin in November. Claims will be invited from August 30 in a big publicity campaign.

To qualify, women must be too disabled to do either a paid job or normal housework.

The announcement was made by Mr Morris in a written Parliamentary reply.

OFFICES of the Scottish Council for Spastics in Edinburgh have been ransacked so regularly that after the last burglary, the third in nine months, staff appealed: 'Leave us alone. There's nothing to steal.' But damage repair will cost the Council £100.

He's the champ!

A BIG moment in the life of 10-year-old Richard Kil-murray of Durrans Terrace, Kilwinning, Ayrshire, who was awarded the Boreham Cup at the National Spastics Games at Nottingham.

Richard, who attends the Corseford School for Spastics, Johnston, Renfrewshire, received his award because he was judged to have made the greatest effort among the male competitors to take part in the games. He is shown with Mr Ian Dawson-Shepherd, who presented him with the cup and who is a member of the Executive Council of The Spastics Society, which organised the games.

Said Richard proudly: 'I've got nine brothers and sisters and this is the first cup in the family. They are all really going to be proud of me.'

Richard had other successes too. He gained first place in the club, light ball, cricket ball and tricycle slalom events in his group. More pictures on page 12.



To Her Majesty from the Society

AMONG the greetings that poured into Buckingham Palace from all over the world for the Queen's Silver Jubilee was a message on behalf of The Spastics Society from Chairman Mr Dorrien Belson. He wrote:

'With my humble duty, I have the honour to convey to Your Majesty loyal greetings from The Spastics Society — those whom it cares for as well as its staff — on the occasion of your Silver Jubilee.'

Mr Belson received this reply from the Palace:

'I am commanded to convey to you, the staff and patients of The Spastics Society the sincere thanks of The Queen for your kind message of loyal greetings on her Silver Jubilee, which Her Majesty much appreciates.'

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Attendance allowance for foster children

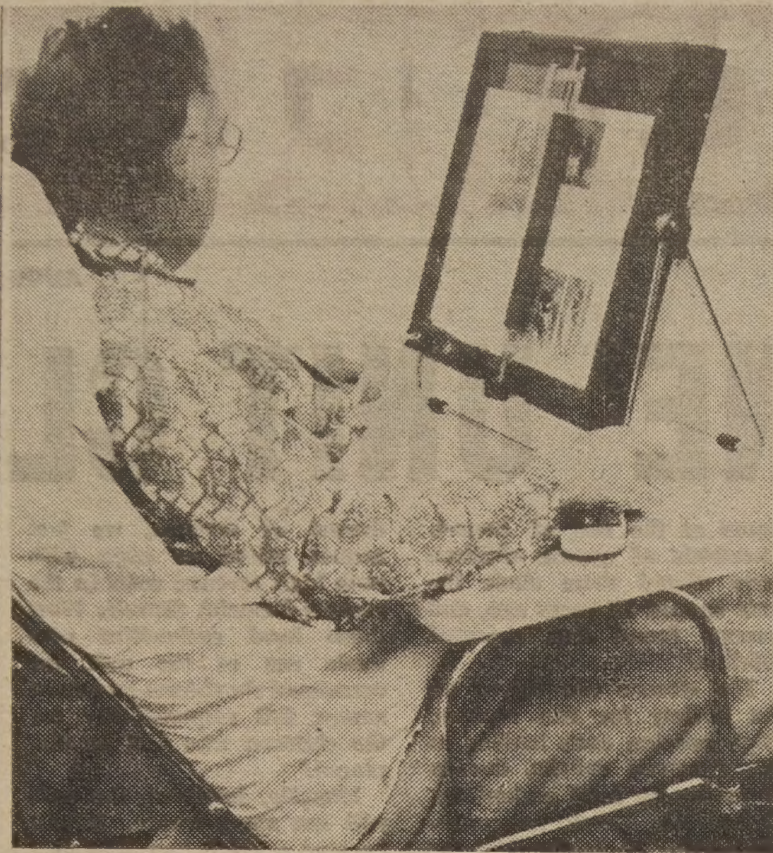
MR Alfred Morris, MP, Minister for the Disabled, announced on July 7 that attendance allowance for handicapped foster children would become payable from August 29 1977. The change will affect some 300 foster children.

In reply to a Parliamentary Question from Mrs Lynda Chalker, MP, Mr Morris said: 'It is proposed that an Attendance Allowance will become payable for physically as well as mentally handicapped foster children who otherwise satisfy the conditions for the allowance.'

● Attendance Allowance is a tax free non-means-tested benefit payable for severely disabled adults and children over the age of two who require a lot of attention or supervision from another person. A higher rate of allowance of £12.20 a week (to be increased to £14 a week from week commencing November 14 1977) is payable for those who require attendance both by day and at night. A lower rate allowance of £8.15 a week (to be increased to £9.30 a week from the same date) is payable for those who need the attendance either by day or at night.

Seeks penfriend

KENNETH Warner, aged 45, of 20 Pedders Lane, St Annes Road, Blackpool, is looking for a penfriend of between 35-45, who must be mobile and interested in music and walking.



A REMOTE control mechanism enables this reader to turn over pages by gentle pressure from the palm of the hand. The Tutomatic page turner can also be operated by a chin or foot switch.

A breakthrough for the bookworms

A NEW electronic page turner, designed to allow even the most severely disabled people access to books and magazines, is now on the market.

The machine, the Tutomatic, can take books of up to 14in deep x 10in wide x 1½in thick, and a double action roller mechanism allows pages to be turned either singly or in rapid succession. Pages can also be turned backwards for reference purposes.

Controls may be adapted for operation by hand, foot, chin or the "suck-and-blow" method, and the page turner is designed to become part of a conventional environmental control system if necessary.

The machine, manufactured by Symot Medical Division, can be folded into a compact carrying case weighing about 22lb. Costing about £225, the machine will be distributed by Newton Aids Ltd, of Conway Street, London W1P 5HE.

New boost for Good Neighbour campaign

THE Good Neighbour Campaign launched last winter by Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, primarily to help the elderly and handicapped, is to be widened in scope. The next stage of the campaign, to be launched in the autumn, will be developed on a broader basis, to encourage individuals to offer assistance to those in the community who would benefit from help with simple tasks and companionship. It is, however, expected that the elderly and disabled will continue to be the major beneficiaries.

This was decided at a meeting in July chaired by Mr Ennals, with representatives of 40 voluntary and statutory organisations who are supporting the campaign in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Security.

It was also unanimously agreed by the representatives to establish a campaign secretariat, which would be a focal point for national publicity. The Personal Social Services Council is being asked if the secretariat can be based within the Council. The Department is prepared to finance the secretariat for an initial period of two years as well as making

funds available for publicity during the next stage of the campaign.

The secretariat will consist of a professional worker, probably with a journalistic background, with secretarial help.

The meeting accepted the general recommendations of a working group, chaired by Mr Raymond Clarke of the Personal Social Services Council, on how the campaign can best be developed.

The working group said that the campaign should build on existing examples of communal action at local level and stressed the importance of using the 'Jubilee spirit' as one of the starting points for new forms of mutual neighbourly activity.

The working group said they were heartened to see that in addition to recent Jubilee activities something more profound had happened in many localities as neighbours planned and worked together taking special care of the young, the disadvantaged and the elderly.

Confident

'Experience in many fields of community work would indicate that the neighbourliness stimulated through some local Jubilee activities may provide a basis for further action; while other forms of activity during the next few months — outings, festivals, fetes, carnivals, exhibitions, sports, play schemes, holiday projects — may also offer a potential outlet for a continuing all-the-year neighbourliness,' stated the working group.

Mr Ennals said that he welcomed the outcome of the meeting. The enthusiasm shown by those attending meant that they could look forward with confidence to the campaign becoming established as a useful method of prompting individuals to offer help to their neighbours as well as stimulating new projects by voluntary groups.

He said: 'With the support of both voluntary and statutory organisations the campaign can begin to develop much more positive support for the community at a local level.'

Stephen keeps the wheels turning



STEPHEN Robinson, a trainee at the Society's North Manchester work centre, saved the centre a hefty repair bill when its delivery van broke down. Almost unaided, he replaced a faulty gearbox, fitted a new clutch and then, having found that the coupling on the drive shaft was unsafe, fitted a new shaft.

The AA's estimated time for carrying out this work is 5 hours 40 minutes. Stephen took about 20 hours but, in the words of Mr J. Burke, work centre manager, "Considering he is athetoid he didn't do all that badly."

Stephen, 22, who lives at The Meadows, Alkrington, is an experienced motor mechanic, having driven his own 200 cc go-cart, and re-built and sold a Ford Cortina. He is now fitting a new engine into a Mini-Cooper S.

Although he drives a normal car with no trouble, Ministry doctors have refused to pass him for an Invacar driving test.

Picture shows Stephen at work on the delivery van.

Volunteers shoulder costly burden on holiday hotel

THE Spastics Society's Garwood Hotel, in Bognor Regis, Sussex, specially designed to give handicapped men and women the chance of a seaside holiday, was officially opened by Her Grace, Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, on July 7.

The hotel is a project of the local groups of the South East Region, supported by South East Regional Staff, and cost £110,000 to buy, convert and equip. In addition, the local groups are responsible for the annual running costs which are expected to be £30,000. The hotel is administered on behalf of

the groups by The Spastics Society.

Situated at 12 Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis, the hotel provides accommodation for eight heavily handicapped guests on the ground floor. In addition, a further eight guests who are less handicapped and able to negotiate stairs can be accommodated on the first floor.

The Duchess was welcomed by Mr Ernest Williment, chair-

man of the South East Region. She unveiled a plaque in the hall and then toured the hotel to meet the manager, Mr Jack Simmons, the staff, and resident guests.

Lake swim

KEN Bailey, well known in Cheshire as a long distance swimmer, takes the plunge into Lake Windermere on August 20 to raise funds for the children at the Lil Stockdale Centre in Sale.

The centre, run by the Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society, has a £9,000 deficit and Joan Walton, appeals organiser, says: 'We are hoping to raise £6,000 by this effort.'

Ken has 10½ miles ahead of him and tickets are being sold at 5p a time with each buyer being asked to estimate the hours, minutes and seconds that Ken, manager of the local ice rink, will take to do the swim. The nearest answer wins £100 BUT, in addition to the fund raising problem, the local group urgently needs volunteers to sell the tickets: so if you can, contact Joan at 34 Harboro' Road, Sale.

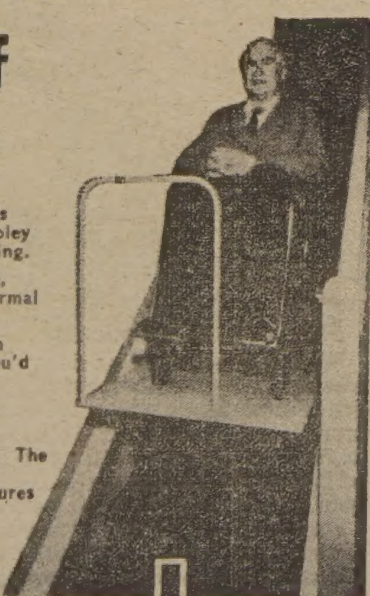
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HANDICAP + OVERWEIGHT = MISERY

Keep your spastic child slim and mobile

'SOMETIMES I wonder if people in authority realise the depths of misery that an overweight, handicapped child can reach.' The speaker was a young, attractive girl in her early 20's, an up-and-coming dietician who has worked in schools for the handicapped and talked to many youngsters as a near-contemporary rather than a remote official.

'They have come to me over and over again, particularly the young teenagers going through puberty and they've wept,' she said. 'They say: "Help us — we're fat and we're ugly, we hate it and we don't know what to do about it." Surely the time has come for someone to take this seriously?'

She was talking off the cuff but from the heart yet, remarkably, as far as can be traced, very little research has been carried out in this country into the subject of obesity in handicapped children, particularly spastics, although some work has been done in the US and Sweden.

Survey

Some years ago Dr T. P. Eddy, senior lecturer in the Department of Home Nutrition, carried out a small-scale survey of the normal calorie intake and expenditure of some spastic children, but reached the conclusion that on the whole their total energy requirements were less than normal children of the same age but normal in relation to their handicap. There was a risk of obesity because it was easier for them to overeat — the essential problem was to persuade them to eat less rather than more.

Dr Peter Roberson, consultant paediatrician at King's College Hospital and vice-chairman of Croydon and District Spastics Society who has a clinic at Guy's Hospital, confirmed that many of these children are overweight, some to the point of obesity.

It was, he felt, a vicious circle. 'Cerebral palsied children are not able to move about so much as ordinary children, therefore they don't use up so much energy as ordinary children, therefore they don't burn up so many calories. Because of this, some of them tend to put on weight. The heavier they get, the harder it is for them to move around and therefore they put on even more weight.'

Dr Robinson has seen a number of very overweight spastic boys and girls and, he says, 'there's no doubt that a lot of them are very unhappy about it, particularly the teenagers. Some were so grossly overweight that it was not

only a problem for them, but a considerable burden on their parents who had to lift them around.'

Some cases could be helped by proper diet, but in some he had been forced to use appetite depressants. 'There has to be a lot of self-control, but at the end they are a lot happier when they've slimmed down, and in one case I remember, a youngster was a changed girl when she'd lost a few stone. She was much brighter, more mobile and more responsive.'

Dr Roberson admitted that this was a problem of sufficient size to merit further investigation. 'It's no use putting all spastic children on a diet. Many of them are not overweight and in fact, some are very thin. Nor is it much use laying down a set diet for all children. It needs to be adapted to the needs of each individual child.' He had sympathy for schools and parents, but felt that both could and should help each other to



A COMPETITOR at the Spastics Games in July — sporting prowess aided by a slim body.

help the overweight child with the co-operation of its doctor.

'Parents of spastic children sometimes feel that they must compensate their child for its disability by giving it all the sweets and ices and fizzy drinks it wants. This, in fact, is doing more harm than good to a child who has a weight problem. If a spastic child is overweight then it needs all the help, support and encouragement it can get from its parents and school to carry out the diet the doctor has asked it to follow.'

Cynthia Robinson, research nutritionist of 'Slimming' Magazine reaffirmed that before any child was put on a diet it must be at the request of its doctor, but offered a number of tips for parents and schools in helping keep down weight in children who looked as if they might be putting on too much.

● 'We recommend that everyone has at least three meals a day, tailoring the diet to the individual,' she explained. 'It's even more important with children. They should not cut out any meals.'

● 'Most people think of salads as a slimming diet, but salads can be very boring for children. Get them to try new kinds of raw vegetables and, if possible, to try them out with their friends. School would be an ideal place for this and it has, indeed, been tried out in some American

schools with great success. Sit them round and let them try little dishes of raw vegetables like grated carrots or chopped up celery or beetroot.'

● 'One of the biggest problems of dieting is fat. If this can be cut down it is one of the most effective ways of slimming. Butter, margarine and cooking oils all contain fats and these are very high in calories so it is much better if foods can be cooked without added fat.'

● 'Cheese is another problem food, high in calories, so while it should be part of a child's diet, it should not be given in large quantities. Milk again, must be part of the diet but it can be given skimmed or separated. A bottle of this contains only 200 calories a pint compared with 370 for ordinary milk.'

● 'Then there are sweets. Don't cut them out completely — children enjoy them, but if they are given a sweet, make sure it's one — not a whole bag. And if they are having a fizzy drink, remember that most cans contain 100 or more calories, while the special diet canned drinks are as low as one calorie.'

● 'There is a tendency in many (not all) institutions to give children stodge. People don't seem to realise that this is not always an economy. Potatoes are good fillers, provided they are not covered in fat, but fruit and vegetables

SLENDER and fit — a young spastic boy enjoys a seaside holiday, his mobility aided because he is not carrying pounds of excess weight. For handicapped children keeping slim is vital and more than a question of vanity. This Spastics News special gives you the facts.

should, if possible, play a very important part in children's diets not only at home but at school, too.'

There seems little doubt that a problem exists for some spastic children. In the long term it would be interesting to hear the view of the experts on the need for deeper research into this, but meantime parents and schools might get together with the local doctors and with trained dieticians to work out an economic and effective way of helping children whose lives are made miserable by being 'fatties' to shed some of the load.

Sally Holloway.



How the schools diet the plump pupils

A SURVEY of The Spastics Society's schools revealed that most had to deal with at least one or two overweight pupils; if not more, so Spastics News asked each school whether special diets were introduced and also for an example of a typical day's menu.

IRTON HALL School's head, John Nelson, said: 'We have one or two overweight children out of 60 so it isn't a major problem with us.'

'Our paediatrician lays down a diet in each case but I'm afraid they don't stick to it during the holidays and they come back fatter. The controlled diets basically consist of small helpings and the children are kept away from potatoes and puddings.'

An average day's meals start with fruit juice, baked beans on toast. For lunch, grilled ham, egg, tomato and chips followed by fruit crumble and custard.

High tea consists of cheese slices on toast and apple, also lentil soup and rolls.

CRAIG-Y-PARC School's head, Mrs Cecily Kearslake, said: 'It is a problem — they go from fat, fatter, very fat. About 10 out of 64 are overweight so we do diet them. Their diet is one of high protein, low starch, low fat and plenty of fruit and yoghurt, and as much exercise as their handicap allows.'

A day's menu: Breakfast, cereal, scrambled eggs, toast and marmalade. Lunch: Roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, cabbage, carrot, potato, followed by rhubarb instant whip. Tea: Beans on toast, bread, butter and jam and cake. In the controlled diets, items such as crispbread are substituted for bread.

WILFRED PICKLES School head, Mr R. Pedder, said: 'The

medical officer checks for weight problems and at the moment we have two children on controlled diets, which means virtually "sugar free." Cheese for instance would be substituted for a meringue pudding, potatoes would be plain boiled rather than roast or fried.'

A day's menu: Breakfast, cereal, bacon, fried bread, toast and marmalade. Lunch: Toad-in-the-hole, potatoes and carrots, pineapple and cream or meringue. Supper: Scrambled eggs on toast, bread and butter or toast, fresh fruit salad and ice-cream. For those on the diet, sausages instead of toad-in-the-hole and fresh fruit instead of ice cream.

MELDRETH MANOR School number 20 out of the roll of 120 as seriously overweight, and provides two diets — one to reduce weight and one to maintain the reduction.

The regime is quite strict, no second helpings, no puddings, no fried food, no cereal and nothing between meals.

A diet breakfast would consist of egg, poached or boiled, or one slice of grilled bacon and a half slice of bread with a little butter. The lunch would, if meat, have no fat or gravy and potatoes, or else be steamed fish. At tea there would be salad and cheese or something similar to breakfast, and one round of bread with a little butter or jam. However, there would be plenty of fresh fruit.

An ordinary menu at Meldreth Manor. Breakfast: Cereal, bacon and eggs and tomato. Lunch: meat, vegetables and pudding. High tea: Bread and butter, jam or spaghetti followed by cake.

All the children are weighed at the beginning of term and those on a diet are weighed weekly.

INGFIELD MANOR School find that they don't

have a problem with overweight children because they keep a watchful eye to prevent children's weight creeping up.

The first measure is to cut down on carbohydrates, serving only small portions of potato or rice. Again, plenty of fresh fruit is served, but the diet is not strict.

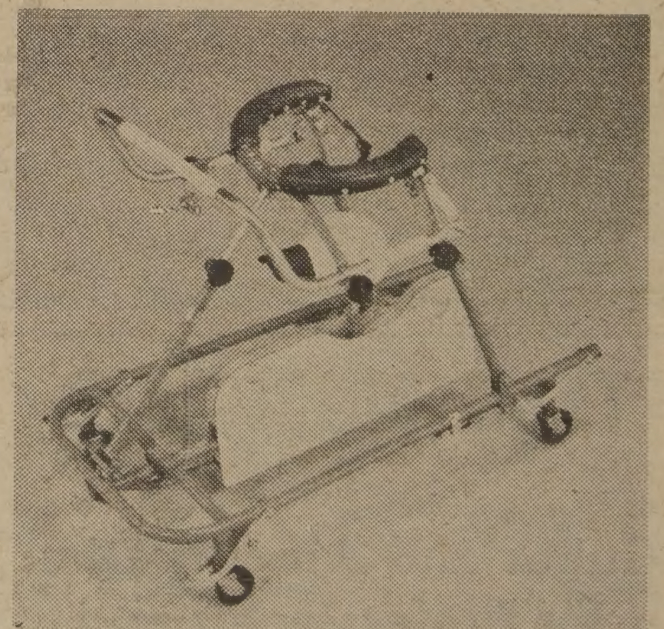
An average menu. Breakfast: Porridge, scrambled egg, toast, marmite and tea. Lunch: Sausage flan, cabbage and potato followed by cherry and rice pudding. Supper: Chicken casserole and rice with bananas and custard and tea, bread and butter for those who want it.

THOMAS DELARUE School has two students on special diets, one a diabetic and the other a vegetarian. Three students are given fresh fruit as an alternative to unsuitable puddings.

Breakfast: Cereal, bacon, fried bread, toast and marmalade. Lunch: Hungarian goulash, peas and new potatoes, followed by rhubarb tart and custard. High tea: Macaroni cheese and sausages, bread and butter and jam, fruit, and tea cakes.

Liz Cook

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News about the Spastics Pool



London's bullseye in darts final

LONDON became the 1977 inter-county champions by defeating Warwickshire 9-4 in the British Darts Organisation championship finals held in Bristol. For the first time the Spastics Pool, Top Ten Promotions Ltd, sponsored the championship finals as an extension of the company's Group Membership Scheme and in recognition of the City's Silver Jubilee celebrations.

As well as a magnificent trophy, London received a cheque for £1,200 and Warwickshire a cheque for £600. In the semi-finals held on the previous day the champions defeated Hampshire to reach the final.

Yorkshire became the 'B' team champions by defeating Essex, and the ladies title went to Lancashire, which beat London in the final.

The 12 county teams, including four ladies teams, had

been competing in preliminary stages of the championship since October 1976 for a place in the finals.

As well as two days of first class darts matches the many hundreds of players, officials and supporters from Essex, Gwent, Hampshire, Lancashire, London, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Yorkshire enjoyed a full entertainment programme. The highlight was an awards ceremony at the Holiday Inn. The prizes were presented by Mr Kenneth Long, Managing Director, Top Ten Promotions Ltd, and the London team manager, Jim Sweeney, received the BDO Trophy from the Lord Mayor of Bristol. Comedian Freddie Davies filled the cabaret spot which was a fitting finale to the evening.

'Fit for a job - fit for a pension' plea

MOST employers accept the principle of 'fit for employment—fit for the pension scheme', states a report from the Occupational Pensions Board.

The evidence which the Board received indicated that there is no problem of any significant size in relation to occupational pension scheme cover for disabled people, and found

that a more informed attitude to the admission of disabled people to pension schemes had developed among employers in recent years.

The Board concluded:

- The difficulty of finding employment was the greatest obstacle in the way of disabled people achieving occupational pension cover. Once a job was obtained, restrictions on admission to pension schemes were unlikely to be a significant problem.

- Complete equality of access to pension schemes could be achieved if employers adopted the principle of 'fit for employment—fit for the pension scheme.'

- Disabled people were not a special risk to schemes in relation to normal retirement benefits.

The Board say that it decided on practical grounds not to recommend at this stage legislation or a formal code of practice on equal access for disabled people. But members would like to see improvements in pension scheme provisions for early ill-health retirement. They recommended that:

- Pension schemes should consider sympathetically making provision for immediate payment of accrued benefits without actuarial reduction—and preferably with some enhancement.

- Where ill-health retirement benefits were based on accrued service without enhancement, there should be no difference in the treatment of scheme members who were fully fit on entry and those who were not.

- Where members, who left employment with entitlement to preserved pensions, retired early from subse-

quent employment on grounds of ill-health, schemes should provide as a minimum for the immediate payment of the preserved pensions actuarially reduced.

The Occupational Pensions Board was asked in May 1976 by Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, to consider the question of occupational pension scheme cover for disabled people. It received written evidence from 43 organisations and individuals. They took oral evidence from four—the TUC, Disabling Income Group, Employment Service Agency and the Civil Service Department. The Board also received information from 11 company chairmen in this country and from officials and others in nine overseas countries about their policies and practices in relation to disabled people.

Following the publication of the report, Mr Stanley Orme, Minister for Social Security, expressed the Government's hope that employers would take up the recommendations on occupational pension schemes for disabled people.

In reply to a Parliamentary question by Mr Geoffrey Robinson, Mr Orme said that the Government accepted that the improvements in pension schemes suggested by the Board should be brought about by voluntary action, rather than by legislation. He said: 'I hope that the Board's recommended improvements will commend themselves to those whose schemes so far do not conform.'

First dividend share

West Bromwich goalkeeper, Tony Godden, hands over a cheque for £2,000 to Mr C. Fox, of Hawbeck Road, Rainham, at a special presentation at the Plough and Chequers, Gillingham, Kent. Mr Fox qualified for a share of the Spastics Pool. The presentation was arranged by Mr R. George.



James Bond at midnight

TOP Ten Promotions will be actively supporting the midnight premiere of the James Bond epic, 'The Spy Who Loved Me' at the Odeon, Bristol, on August 20 in aid of the Stars Organisation for Spastics.

The film, again features Roger Moore as the legendary James Bond and also stars Curt Jurgens, Barbara Bach and Carolyn Monroe.

Tickets for the premiere, price £2.50, can be obtained from the box office at the cinema.

Island charmer

THE 1977 Isle of Man Spastics Pool Charm Girl is Barbara Cannell, 18, a hairdresser, of Castletown. Barbara, pictured wearing her sash, was congratulated by Alan Jackson, of Manx Radio. She won £50 and added the title to her Isle of Man branch of the National Federation of Hairdresser's Personality Girl success.

Home from work to a surprise

RESIDENTS of The Spastics Society's Hostel in Snakes Land, Woodford Green, Essex, had a pleasant surprise when they arrived home from work. During their absence a group of 23 six-year-old pupils from the local Avon House School had visited the hostel to deliver gifts of a piano, garden table with umbrella, and £190 in cash.

Last Christmas the same children put on a nativity play for residents at the hostel and presented them with a black and white television.

Now these enterprising youngsters plan to raise still more money for their adopted 'Uncles' and 'Aunties' by holding a picnic and selling cakes and fruit.

Gift for new unit

MR Kenneth Long, a trustee of the Good Neighbours Trust and Managing Director of Top Ten, presenting a cheque for £1,000 to Doctor Marshall Craigmyle, left, Warden of University College, Penarth, Glamorgan. The donation will go to the Medical Research Fund to establish a unit for handicapped children in Cardiff.

The presentation took place at Westmorland House, headquarters of the Spastics Pool.

There's flair in our new 'jewelry'

THE flair with which the Homework section of the Society works at producing jewellery is being recognised in a new colour catalogue launching the latest range. It is called 'Flair' and there is an American flavour with the use of the spelling Jewelry.

'Flair Jewelry' is a completely new line in design although all the hall marks of craftsmanship associated with the Homework section are evident. Styles range from delicate diamond-style necklets, to pendants with an antique look and rings with a Celtic appearance. There is also a matching set of bracelet, ring, pendant and clip-on earrings in antique gilt finish, set with imitation tiger's eye and crystals.



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SN Aug4

Minister lists mobility concessions

MR ALF Morris MP, Minister for the Disabled, has drawn attention to financial concessions available for disabled people on goods and services to aid mobility.

In a written reply to a Parliamentary question from Mr Jack Ashley MP, Mr Morris said that in consultation with his department, the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (formerly the Central Council for the Disabled) had been instrumental in arranging a number of very worthwhile concessions for disabled people on mobility.

In the following list, the concession comes first, then from whom the concession is available, and third the type of beneficiary:

Car hire at reduced rate (17½ per cent discount) — Kenning Car Hire; NHS vehicle service and Mobility Allowance beneficiaries.

Discount of 15 per cent on retail prices of cars — Fiat; Mobility Allowance beneficiaries.

Hire purchase of wheelchairs — Biddle Engineering

Company; Any disabled person.

Discount of 7½ per cent-10½ per cent on retail price of wheelchairs — Meyra Rehab; Mobility Allowance beneficiaries.

Extension of guarantee on electric wheelchairs for 12 months — Zimmer; Mobility Allowance beneficiaries.

Discount on car hire — Chrysler; NHS vehicle service and Mobility Allowance beneficiaries.

Insurance policy of £5 a year premium — The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation; Electric wheelchair users.

Discount of 15 per cent on new cars — Chrysler, British Leyland and Vauxhall; Mobility Allowance beneficiaries and NHS vehicle service beneficiaries.

Discount of about 18 per cent on purchase price of Escort 1.3 Popular automatic with special credit facilities — Ford Motor Company; Mobility Allowance beneficiaries and NHS vehicle service beneficiaries.

No deposit HP on wheelchairs — Newton Aids Ltd (in conjunction with Lombard North Central of Uxbridge, Middx); Mobility Allowance beneficiaries.

MP probes on further education aid

MR J. Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent) asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science in the Commons what action she was taking to improve the utilisation of resources for disabled students in higher and further education. He also asked what action she was taking to encourage plans for university and college buildings to take account of the need for facilities for disabled people.

The Minister of State for Education and Science, Mr Gordon Oakes, replied that in January 1977 the Department had asked local education authorities in submitting plans for school and further educa-

to university building officers about the needs of the disabled in 1972 and decided that it was not necessary to make further approach along the lines of the Department's letter to local education authorities.

Replying to supplementary questions, Mr Oakes stated that it was known from a recent survey by HM Inspectorate that about one-quarter of colleges in the non-university sector arranged for a member of staff to be responsible for the needs of handicapped students at the institutions.

Mandatory awards made by local education authorities included special provision to cover the needs of disabled students attending degree and similar courses.

Mr Ashley asked the Secretary of State what action was being taken to make schools aware of facilities for disabled pupils in establishments of higher and further education.

The Under-Secretary of State, Education and Science, Miss Margaret Jackson, replied that apart from the usual

So happy Peter cheered readers

THEY told Peter Carter's mother he wouldn't live to see 21 but as this smiling picture reveals two decades later, Peter proved them wrong. And it was his happy smile and cheerful story that prompted the Suffolk Free Press to devote nearly a page of the paper to Peter.

So impressed was the newspaper by Peter's optimism and enthusiasm for life expressed in the autobiography he dictated to a friend, it was reproduced. Not only as a tribute to Peter himself but as a reminder to readers tempted to grumble about stories appearing elsewhere in the paper on the current economic situation, strikes and strife of everyday life.

Peter says: 'My life is certainly a happy one!'

Peter lives at the Stars Organisation for Spastics Wakes Hall centre in Essex.



A sporty weekend on the water

A WATER sports open day for the physically handicapped, the partially sighted and the blind is being organised by Severn-Trent Water Authority in conjunction with Staunton Harold Sailing Club.

Nationally recognised tutors will be on hand at Staunton Harold Reservoir, near Melbourn, Leicestershire, throughout Saturday, August 13, and for part of Sunday the 14th to provide introductory or more advanced tuition in sailing, canoeing, fly fishing, coarse fishing, and the handling of radio controlled model

sailing boats.

Invitations have been issued to a large number of interested organisations and admission is free to any disabled persons and their companions.

Alan Roberts, Severn-Trent's area recreation officer at Nottingham, who is chiefly responsible for organising the day, explains: 'Participation, of course, will be entirely voluntary, and many visitors may prefer simply to sit and watch. Medically qualified personnel will be there ready to give advice on the choice of water sports.'

Offers and Wants

FOR SALE

NEW stair lift, virtually unused, original cost £800, but will accept £350 for quick sale. Contact Mrs M. Shaw, 113 Ladbroke Crescent, Basford, Nottingham. Phone Nottingham 700911.

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BEC portable electrical wheelchair, dual control, right hand for patient or attendant. Two batteries plus charger. Hardly used, perfect condition. £300 ono. Apply to Mrs D. Edwards, 39 Downs Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex. Tel 01-863 5873.

FOR SALE

BATRIC electrically powered chair. Contact Miss M. Gardner, Flat 33, Nailbourne Court, Lyngge, Near Folkestone, Kent.

WANTED: Disabled person, aged 21, seeks sub-frame for Harding Model M tricycle. Contact: Julian Cutter, 12 East Street, Salisbury.

REQUIRED from first week in January until a week before Easter, 1978, accommodation preferably near London or Colchester, for a 23-year-old French girl who is a spastic and confined to a wheelchair. Sylvie needs some help with dressing/undressing and toileting, also requires some support when getting in and out of the bath, provided hand rails are available. She can feed herself but needs her food cut up. She can propel her wheelchair with her feet. Sylvie's speech is affected but understandable. A charming person who would like the experience of living with an English family.

Anyone willing to help should contact Miss Hambrook, Family Services & Assessment Centre (The Spastics Society), 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HQ. Tel 01-387 9571.

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS

tion building projects, to show what provision was to be made for the disabled.

The University Grants Committee issued design guidance



Taxi drivers aid garden project

THE Society's North Manchester Work Centre has branched out into the garden business. The Greater Manchester Spastics Society, aided by the local taxi drivers' organisation has raised the money to buy a greenhouse to launch the scheme.

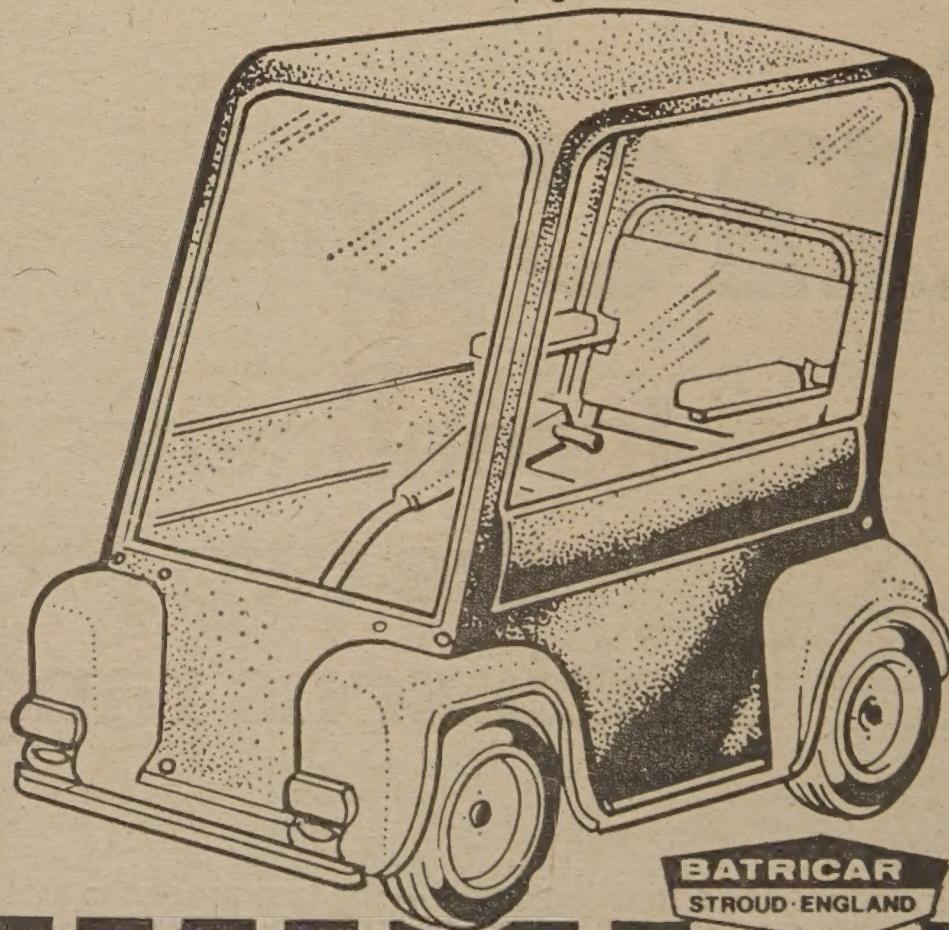
At the official opening of the greenhouse, Tommy Tynon, taxi driver (third from right) hands over the keys to Steve Platt, who will be one of the gardeners. Also in the picture

are Roy Dwyer, taxi driver; J. Burke, work centre manager; Mrs D. M. Snowden, vice-president of the Greater Manchester Spastics Society, and Charlie Garrick, taxi driver.

Manchester and Salford taxi drivers are planning to raise funds for a second greenhouse, and it is hoped that there will eventually be four. Garden furniture and ornaments will also be produced at the centre.

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Spastic children in mental handicap hospitals

by Maureen Oswin

IN 1975 The Spastics Society kindly financed me to study the care of multiply handicapped children in long stay mental handicapped hospitals. Eight hospitals were visited, and the lives of 223 children were looked at.

My report 'Cabbages Don't Cry', will be published early next year. It draws attention to the very serious shortage of resources to help multiply handicapped children who live in mental handicap hospitals.

Aids show at Plymouth

A UNIQUE mobile trailer designed to carry vital information to the disabled and the elderly all over England and Wales will arrive at Plymouth on August 8, when it will be visited by the Lord and Lady Mayoress of Plymouth, Councillor and Mrs R. Ramsey-Thornton.

Called The Visiting Aids Centre, the trailer will be on its site at Bank of England Place car park, Royal Parade, Plymouth, from August 8 to August 11 and from August 15 to August 18. It will be open from 10 am to 6 pm.

The centre is run by The Spastics Society, who are concerned that thousands of people, suffering from a variety of disabilities and handicaps, do not know of the existence of many invaluable mechanical aids and services that are available to them.

All the hospitals were short of therapy staff and nurses. For example, five of the eight hospitals had no speech therapist, and three had no physiotherapist. Many of the wards were so short of nursing staff at weekends and in the evenings that it was not uncommon to have three nurses who had to look after 20 severely disabled children.

Because of staff shortages, the ward nurses could often do little more for the children except provide them with basic care. There was no time to mother them, or help them to crawl or teach them independence or how to play.

In some of the hospitals there was even a shortage of wheelchairs and the right sort of furniture and aids for spastic children.

Being familiar with the way that the Society's schools and centres help spastic children to live in the community, I

feel that it would be a good idea if those hospitals which were short of therapy staff could link up with the local Spastics Society centres and get advice on physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, aids and furniture.

Two of the hospitals had very good links with the children's families, but the others had fewer links because they were situated in remote

country districts and were awkward for parents to reach if they did not have cars.

Many parents of spastic, mentally handicapped children have a dread of their children having to go into mental handicap hospitals. This is not because they think that hospital staff are uncaring, but because they know that mental handicap hospitals are continually short of resources and that the National Health Service is desperately under-financed at the present time.

Perhaps these worried parents and overworked hospital staff and the handicapped children might be helped by local Spastics Society groups campaigning for more community help for multiply handicapped children so that they do not have to live permanently in mental handicap hospitals.

Director 'horrified'

COMMENTED Mr James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society:

'We are horrified to learn from this study that the appalling conditions in long stay mental handicap hospitals, which we exposed over six years ago, remain the same today. It is terrible that children should be suffering in this way because their cabbage-like existence robs them of any chance in life.'

'We run an excellent residential school for 120 severely mentally handicapped children, and spent £385,000 building two hostels for such children which we then handed over to local authorities to run. Our experience in this field has

shown that when children with severe mental handicaps are placed in a homely caring situation they respond to such stimulation and there is significant improvement in their social behaviour and attainments.'

'But alas, we do not have the financial resources to provide the right kind of environment for many of those children left stagnating in hospitals. Nevertheless, we are determined to do something to help, and we plan to make efforts to liaise more closely with hospitals so that we can pass on some of our own expertise to develop the potential of these mentally handicapped children.'

LETTERS

Interested... Disturbed...

I WAS very interested to read the article 'What do they know about us?' on the front of the July Spastics News, and quite agree that, to some extent the situation may not look too bright. However, it comes as no shock at all to us in the Regional Organisation. Our work includes giving talks to schools and any group of the general public, purely with a view to increasing the awareness of what handicap means.

The number of talks we give in London each year is too great to count, particularly to schools, and I think that this effort has resulted in some change of attitude. Not long ago the response from talks was often the attitude of: 'Out of sight—out of mind.' At least nowadays there is growing concern and awareness of handicap.

It is unlikely that everyone will remember the exact definition of a spastic—and I don't think that is what we should either aim at or expect. What we are aiming at in our talks is impressing on the general public that (1) NOT all spastics are mentally handicapped, (2) anyone can have a spastic child, and (3) the 'handicapped' are people like all of us and entitled to the best chances in life we can offer them.

We spend a lot of time both giving talks and discussing how best to get the message across, and, in comparison with attitudes of say about five years ago, I feel the results of this survey were quite heartening.

JUDITH LANE,
Senior Regional Officer,
London.

I WAS disturbed to note in your article in the July issue regarding the new hostel opened in Ulster that residents must gain the permission of the warden before friends and relatives may visit them.

I strongly feel that such hostels are the homes of those who live there and it seems invidious to expect to have to ask permission to receive visitors in ones own home.

PATRICK GOLDSTONE,
Regional Officer,
The Spastics Society,
London W1.

Amazed...

I WAS amazed to read in an item in last month's issue of Spastics News that residents at a newly-opened hostel could receive visits from family and friends providing that arrangements were first made with the warden! Surely this is a very old-fashioned way of going about things? I thought the move was to treat people as independently as their disabilities allowed, and this seems to me to be a very institutional way of running a centre.

L. M. CRITTENDEN,
Croydon,
Surrey.

● Editor's note: The hostel referred to is the first to be opened in Ulster by the Northern Ireland Council for Orthopaedic Development, so it is possible that policy there might be different to that associated with the Society's own centres in England and Wales.

This year be Economical!

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the two problems met by
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The Alps are alive with flora and fauna

A PARTY of students from the Society's Thomas Delarue School set up base camp at Lauterbrunnen in the Bernese Alps in July and in 10 days, in the words of one of the expedition leader's saw: 'More than any able-bodied British schoolchild would ever see outside the British Museum.'

The difference for Kathryn Burnett, 14, Gwynneth Ivey, 14, Tony Loyd, 14, and Henry Wojdas, 15, Andrew Shear, 14, and Mark Todd, 15, the last three of whom are all in wheelchairs, was that far from being on a sight seeing holiday, they were undertaking a thoroughly academic research expedition. They were studying the wild life and the vegetation at sites of approximately 1,000ft rising to the Jungfrau at 11,000ft.

Because it was a research expedition, it meant the students were out investigating various sites each and every day, unlike parties of holidaying schoolchildren and other tourists who only went out when the sun shone. As a result, very often by the time they had climbed to their objective, the weather would have cleared and they had the Alps to themselves.



ALPINE trophies brought down to earth by part of the Churchtown Farm expedition: Martin Moore, Alan Tregaskes, Simon Leader, Henry Wojdas, Kathryn Burnett and Gwynneth Ivey.

the job—unlike the tourists who climbed in t-shirts, shorts and flip-flop rubber sandals. One tourist was seen to slide 50ft down a mountainside on his back, clad only in shirt and shorts.

The students made some rare discoveries, alpine voles and salamanders and newts living at unexpectedly great heights. They saw golden eagles and the ibex, the spectacular creature with the curving horns which is the symbol of Lauterbrunnen.

Said Gwynneth: 'We expected hard work and not a holiday and that's what we got. And we enjoyed every minute.'

The expedition was led by Dr Michael Cotton, Warden of Churchtown Farm Field Studies Centre, Lanlivery, Cornwall.

Raising funds in footsteps of Vikings

IT is said that the Lyke Wake Walk, 43 miles across the Yorkshire Moors to Ravenscar near Scarborough, takes its name from the Viking days. Then the Viking dead would be carried along this path to be shipped back to Denmark for the funeral rites.

Now it's a walk that attracts 2,000 enthusiasts every year, and Charles Wood, the North East's Senior Regional Officer, sees a way of turning every step to profit.

'One of my staff, Ian Croft, decided he wanted to do the

walk—it snowballed in the office, they got sponsored, friends joined and got sponsored, too, so at midnight on Friday, July 8, we left Harrogate for Osmotherly. Two local appeals officers and myself acted as support groups with hot soup for the 15 walkers. Ian, Sue Slocombe, the shops officer, and Jean Fox, the office secretary, and their 12 friends, started off at 1.30 am in foggy, rainy darkness.

The first to arrive at Ravenscar was Stephen Baird

Centre's newly-weds at Palace party

ALTHOUGH they did not get a chance to chat with their Royal host, Mary and David Harris got a glimpse of the Duke of Edinburgh when they attended one of the Queen's garden parties in July.

Mary, who like her husband, is in a wheelchair, explained from their home at the Society's Princess Marina Centre, Seer Green, Bucks: 'It all came about because my sister and brother-in-law took us on our honeymoon last August, and my grandfather was so impressed with the way they looked after us that he wrote to his MP, saying they deserved a medal.'

'Grandpa is over 80 and dotes on me, so nothing is too much trouble.

'Of course they couldn't give my sister and her husband a

medal but honoured their devotion by sending them an invitation to a garden party and including us as well.'

A 'very thrilled' Mary and David were driven up to the Palace by the centre's driver and met up with their family there, for the Party on the 19th.

Now they achieve degrees

TWO very severely handicapped spastics who have each, in different years, reached the finals of the Society's annual Achievement Award, have just heard that they have gained degrees.

John Williams is already a distinguished academic, but now for his thesis 'A study of the perceptions of decision making,' based on the Pentagon Papers, he has been made a Master of Philosophy by Sussex University. It is his third degree. He previously gained a BA in politics and an MA in international relations. Mr Williams is 37 and lives in London at the Good Neighbours House run by the Stars Organisation for Spastics, in Camberwell.

Alyn Haskey, who won the Society's 1975 Achievement Award, has received his first degree. He read sociology and modern history at York.



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TV series for the volunteers

THE Volunteer Centre is encouraging voluntary and statutory social work agencies to link up with local colleges of further education and form study groups to explore some of the issues raised in a new BBC television series which starts in October.

'Volunteers' is a new weekly series of 10 programmes on the volunteer and voluntary agencies. It starts on Monday October 10 at 7.05 pm on BBC2 and each programme will be repeated at 3.25 pm the following Wednesday on BBC1.

The series looks at the work of volunteers in a wide range of activities including their work in community care, with the probation service, with educationally subnormal children, as marriage guidance counsellors, in community relations, with one-parent families, psychiatric hospitals, in countryside conservation, with children who reject school discipline and with the WRVS.

The Volunteer Centre has produced a set of study notes which can be used by individuals or groups wishing to use the television programmes as the basis for studying some of the issues raised.

The study notes will be available after September 12 from The Volunteer Centre, 29 Lower King's Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2AB, on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope (15p stamp, A4 envelope). Envelopes should be endorsed BBC FE.

Sun and starshine



WHAT more can you want for a summer fete than that the sun shines and the stars come out?

LEFT: Danny La Rue was at the Spastics Centre in Whitegate Drive, Blackpool, when the Blackpool and Flyde Spastics Group held its fete. And Danny, added to the afternoon's fun and also made friends with Clare Ritches.

Picture by Blackpool Gazette and Herald.

PICTURE BELOW: Members of the Stars Organisation for Spastics Wakes Hall Management Committee and friends could relax while their chairman, Muriel Paylow, officially opened the centre's summer fete. Stars pictured include Norrie Paramor; Ron Goodwin, Geoff Love, Don Moss, Robert Knight, Ronnie Lane and Dickie Henderson.



Royal Academy judges impressed by art talent

THE judges of what was intended to be a small, 25-picture exhibition of the paintings of handicapped people at the Royal Academy, were so impressed by the quality of entries that they made a special request that 45 pictures should be hung.

The exhibition, from Thursday, July 28, to Monday, August 1, was organised by The Spastics Society, and ran in parallel with the Royal Academy's Summer Showing in Burlington

House, London, W1. Entry was open to people of all ages and with all types of handicap.

The judges were Edward Bawden, RA, Ben Levene, ARA, and E. N. Tregarthen-Jenkins, MA, Principal of the Camberwell College of Art.

Two hundred and fifty pictures by handicapped people from all over the country were submitted, and judges were unanimous in their praise of the

standard. They felt that the work showed 'talent, sensitivity and good craftsmanship.'

An outstanding collage of a hospital ward came from 30-year-old Barbara Biggs, a multiple sclerosis victim, who lives at St Francis Hospital, East Dulwich. It was called simply 'Mon Dieu.'

A landscape of St Fillans, Loch Earn, comes from the brush of a 21-year-old man, Robert Ismay, of Park View, Park Street, Bishop Auckland, Durham. He is a tetraplegic, following an accident on the Rugby field, and paints with splints on his fingers.

A 33-year-old mentally handicapped woman, Dzintra Zveja Ridley, of Blackerton House, East Anstey, Tiverton, Devon, had two pictures in the exhibition. One is entitled 'China Garden Restaurant, Plymouth,' and the other is called 'Preparing the berth for the Kathleen and May.'

Nineteen-year-old Malcolm Gorst, of 30 Beaufort Avenue, Loughborough, is spastic and autistic. He has painted a landscape of St Andrew's Head and another of Looe, in Cornwall.

A married spastic couple, Doreen and Logan Wood, who live at Coats Hutton Road, Shrub End, Colchester, both have pictures in the exhibition. Doreen's painting is entitled 'Breezy sandy dunes,' and Logan's is a landscape of Kinsey Craig.

A 14-year-old mentally subnormal boy, Francis O'Neill, has painted a Mediterranean scene. He attends St Anthony's School, St Paul's Road, Chichester, Sussex.

A heavily handicapped 21-year-old girl, Joan Dalton, of The Princess Marina Centre, Seer Green, Bucks, has produced a graphic portrait of a Scottish piper.

Gareth Cole, aged 30, who lives at Oakwood Further Education Centre, Kelvedon, Essex, has two pictures in the show. One is a still life, the other a portrait. Gareth is a severely handicapped spastic with unsteady hand control.

Peter Scocroft, aged 27, of Swansea, died last year. He was severely physically handicapped. His mother sent the last picture he painted for the consideration of the judges.

In the evening of July 28 there was a concert in the Long Gallery of the Royal Academy by Philomusica, who donated all the proceeds to The Spastics Society.

They advise on policy

The National Development Group for the Mentally Handicapped was set up two years ago to advise the Secretary of State for Social Services on policies for the mentally handicapped and on their implementation.

Professor Mittler is Director of the Hester Adrian Research Centre for study of learning processes in the mentally handicapped at the University of Manchester. Members of the group include a parent as well as specialists in nursing, social work, psychiatry, education and administration. The group is independent of the Department of Health and Social Security, but works closely with DHSS officials and is based at the Department's headquarters.

The group has already published four pamphlets (Mental Handicap: Planning Together, July 1976; Mentally Handicapped Children: A Plan For Action, March 1977; Helping Mentally Handicapped School Leavers, May 1977; Residential Short-Term Care for Mentally Handicapped People: Suggestions For Action, May 1977).

The group is now concentrating on the preparation of advice to Ministers on ways in which hospital services can be developed within existing resources.

Ambitious new thinking on adult centres

ADULT Training Day Centres for mentally handicapped adults should be renamed 'Social Education Centres', the work they do should be broadly educational in approach, and those who attend them should be called 'students'.

These are some of the conclusions of the National Development Group for the Mentally Handicapped in a major pamphlet on day services for mentally handicapped adults published on July 19. The pamphlet is intended for staff who work in these centres and also those in planning and wider management, as well as staff in hospitals for the mentally handicapped who are concerned with training and rehabilitation.

It follows soon after publication of the first national survey of adult training centres in England and Wales published by the National Association of Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped.

Professor Peter Mittler, the Chairman of the National Development Group, says in the pamphlet that the group sees the Social Education Centre as the key resource centre for mentally handicapped people in the community with its staff working not only with their own students, but with the widening range of community agencies now involved with mentally handicapped people.

High priority

Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, says in a foreword to the booklet that the Government places high priority on the continued development of day services and praises the work of staff of adult training centres.

Amongst the group's recommendations are:—

- Social Education Centres to comprise four sections: Admission and assessment; development and activity; special care and advanced work.
- Gradual improvement of staffing ratios with a minimum of 1 to 10 rising gradually to 1 to 6; the development of a management team; use of outside consultants and more opportunities for staff development.
- Initial and continuous assessment of all students leading to a written down programme of activities and objectives for each student based on his needs as an individual.
- Considerable widening of activities in the centres to encompass personal, social and vocational education, using modern methods of teaching and training.
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SN Aug 10



WINDOW ON WALES

by Emlyn Davies

Golden day reward for 'unstinting effort'

WHILE most of us are only too happy to have the summer with us, Andy Sharpe is looking forward to a golden November. That is when Andy, who lives at the Mumbles spastics hostel and works at the West Cross Centre, goes to Buckingham Palace to receive his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

The journey to the Palace follows a five-hour trek up Snowdon as part of his three-year course which included learning to ride horses, swim, roughing it camping out and physical fitness exercises.

'This has been an unstinting effort on Andy's part. For sheer guts and determination you don't have to look further than Andy,' said Peter Johns, the award officer for the scheme.

Picture by courtesy of the South Wales Evening Post.

Fun with the Guards

DURING the Queen's visit to Cardiff, a unit of her Horse and Foot Guards were stationed at the local authority's 'Highfields' centre at Allensbank Road, Cardiff. They were extremely busy preparing to escort the Queen but found time to meet some of Cardiff's young and old handicapped people, including children from Craig-y-Parc School. For them there were rides on horses and uniforms to be tried on, including the huge busbies worn by the Guards.

Raising money in the mountains



PICTURED all set for a 12-mile ride across the mountains above Colwyn Bay are a group of riders aiming to raise between £70-£80 for the Colwyn Bay and District Spastics Society.

Led by Mrs Gillian Lusty, they were waved off by the Mayor of Colwyn, Councillor Robinson, and also there to see them start were the chairman and secretary of the Colwyn Bay Society, Mrs Betty Powell Bowen, and Miss Rosalind Osborne.

The 12-mile ride was to take them over some of the most beautiful country in Wales. At the six-mile mark they stopped to refresh both horses and riders and there they were met by other members of the Colwyn Bay group who helped them to prepare for the ride back.

Part of the money raised will be donated to a riding school

which works with the disabled, and the rest will help maintain the work of the Colwyn Bay group.

Swimming successes

JIMMY Howells, aged 17, is a trainee at the Monmouthshire Society's Cwmbran Work Centre, and a member of the Gwent Dolphins Swimming Club for the disabled. At the Fairwater Leisure Centre, Cwmbran, in July, he was presented with the Barclay's Bank Cup for the most improved swimmer of the year. We all wish him success and continued improvement in his chosen sport!

Not to be outdone, Louisa Gammond, aged eight, won a silver medal for being second in a long-distance race. Congratulations to you as well, Louisa.

Quick off the mark

LLANDUDNO was the scene two years ago of one of the most spectacular fires in which the ASDA hypermarket was completely gutted. Now it has been rebuilt and one of the first organisations to approach the company to collect there was the Aberconwy and District Society for the spastic and disabled. In a very short time with very little effort they raised £141.

FURTHER to a recent article on the fund-raising events of the Rhyl and Delyn Spastics Group, I have heard that a total of £407 was collected in the Rhyl area, and £209 in the Mold area. Thanks are particularly due to the pupils of Rhyl High School, who collected £233, and Mold Alun High School youngsters who collected £99. Staff of the schools helped organise the collection by the pupils, so the officers and members of the support group could do their own fund-raising.

Hard work pays off in high takings

A WELCOME for the Society's newest recruit in Wales—Mr W. Pennington, manageress of the Society's shop in Rhyl.

Due to the tremendous preliminary work put in by John Seddon, chairman of the Rhuddlan and Delyn group, the amount of stock going into the shop has to be seen to be believed. I am reliably informed that at one time both Mrs Pennington and her husband were climbing over huge mounds of it in an attempt to grade items for display.

The hard work is paying off as the shop has average takings of £50 per day.

The lady we all wish well

I REPORT with regret that Mrs Janet Millington, secretary of the Rhuddlan and Delyn group for over two years has had to resign due to failing eyesight. Janet, who is well known to the groups in Wales, has had problems with her eyes for some time, and she is shortly to go to London to be examined at the famous Moorfields Eye Hospital. All of us in Wales wish her a speedy recovery. Fortunately Janet is going to continue as a committee member to further the work of the Mold and District support group.

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Peter Prince

Thanks, but... NEVER AGAIN!

DESPITE the strongest possible pleas from the police and The Spastics Society's London local appeals officer, a Post Office employee dived off Vauxhall Bridge to raise funds for the Society—and almost drowned in the attempt.

The treacherous Thames' current that has claimed many victims was more than Peter Prince anticipated — although he had been repeatedly warned of the danger by the police and David Saint. He was rescued by a police launch which was standing by.

Michael Brophy, the Society's Chief Fund Raising Executive, declared: 'This is a very difficult situation and not the first time the Society has faced it.'

'Six years ago, two people were killed on a sponsored walk for the Society, so this isn't the first time that this sort of thing has happened. Of course one has to say "thank you" to Mr Prince for the £120 he hopes to raise but equally we have to say to the next person who thinks of attempting this type of thing: "You MUST take police advice and if they advise against it—DON'T DO IT!"'

'After all, the Society's reputation is the most precious thing we have—it is a fact that if people get themselves killed or have to be rescued by the emergency services like this, then the general public's reaction is: "How silly of The Spastics Society to have allowed it." I can only add "thank you" but PLEASE don't do it again.'

Apparently Mr Prince, who was sponsored by workmates, has said he will make another jump in the autumn.

New social benefits depend on growth of economy

MAJOR reforms across the spectrum of social security benefits 'must depend on the economic recovery that is this Government's central objective,' said Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, opening a seminar held in a London hotel on July 5 to discuss priorities in social security spending.

The one-day seminar — held on the 29th anniversary of the founding of the modern welfare state through the 1946 National Insurance Act and National Health Service Act — was jointly chaired by Mr Ennals and Mr Stanley Orme, Minister for Social Security, and was attended by Mr Alf Morris, Minister for the Disabled, and Professor David Donnison, Chairman, Supplementary Benefits Commission.

An invited audience of more than 100 people represented interested parties including politicians, journalists, educationalists, consumer groups and charitable organisations.

Mr Ennals said: 'Although there is much to celebrate in the achievements of our welfare state there is also much that is criticised. Some will say that we haven't done anything like enough; that there are still too many holes in the safety net for people to fall through. There are others who sometimes give the impression that the system is riddled with fraud and abuse, that the level of benefits is far too high or that the welfare state is far too expensive.'

There were many differing viewpoints as to the role and extent of public expenditure in meeting various needs, but Mr Ennals hoped the debate would look to the future rather than argue for 'dismantling the welfare state or that spending on it can zoom up and up without limit.'

'I cannot pretend that there is going to be much room for manoeuvre in the next year or so; though as we emerge from the economic crisis there

will be more opportunity for advance.

The arithmetic of major reforms was daunting. Some people wanted the pension age for men reduced by five years to 60. 'This blow struck for sex equality would be quite a blow to the public purse, too, at a cost of two billion pounds a year.'

Higher pensions would add another two billion a year; abolition of the earnings rule for pensioners, special benefits for one-parent families, child benefits at £5 a child, would cost almost 1½ billion pounds a year extra.

'That list of reforms tots up to around six billion pounds a year. The social security bill would be half as big again as it is now. Improvements on this scale must depend on the economic recovery that is this Government's central objective. Without growth we simply can't afford all these major reforms. To pay for them in today's circumstances we would need to raise the basic rate of income tax to something like 47p in the pound, or a massive increase in National Insurance contributions.'

Vast sum

In his address Mr Orme pointed out that in 1976-77 social security expenditure was over £11 billion.

'This is equivalent to around one tenth of our GNP and about one fifth of all government spending. Social Security spending is twice the size of defence spending. It is also higher than spending on education (£7.5 billion), housing (£4.7 billion) and health and personal social services (£6.5 billion).'

Mr Orme said he did not subscribe to the view that a total restructuring of social security was called for. 'The welfare state has been thoroughly overhauled in recent years. This overhaul has resulted in the new pension scheme, the new method of family support and new benefits for the disabled. The one area which is due for reform is supplementary benefit and a review of the supplementary benefit system is currently taking place.'

'As the economy improves we shall continue to pursue redistributive policies and to give priority to such social expenditure. But there will never be enough money available to satisfy all claims on the social security budget.'

He went on: 'In the years ahead I see the four cornerstones of the social security system as:

- pension improvements for the elderly, widows and others;
- development of family support, building on child benefit;
- measures to help the unemployed;
- income support for the sick and disabled.'

Speaking about pensions, he said: 'Despite all the economic difficulties we have faced in the 1970s, pensions are now almost a quarter higher in real terms than they were at the beginning of the decade.'

Alf Morris, MP, Minister for the Disabled, told the meeting:—

'The Government's spending on cash benefits for disabled people has increased in real terms in recent years. This is made clear by the conference papers. But it is no use increasing benefits, or providing extra services under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, if we cannot find the hard-pressed people for whom Parliament intended all this help.'

'This is why I must stress today that there has been marked progress recently in the identification and registration of disabled people by their local authorities.'

'In fact, compared with the less than half-a-million disabled people known to their local authorities in 1970, we are now nearing the million mark.'

'Yet there is still much more to do to enhance the status of disabled people. Among other things, we must look within needful groups as well as between them. For example, elderly disabled people have very special problems over and above the problems facing elderly people generally, just as the one-parent family where the parent is disabled will experience additional problems that intensify his or her difficulties.'

'I am well aware of the pressures to do more for all disabled people and, in particular, of the strong support for a properly structured income scheme for disabled people. We shall build on the new help we have made available as soon as we possibly can. Our immediate problem is to fix the next step forward in consultation with disabled people themselves and those who work to advance their interests.'

Alison House opens —and that's official



SINCE Alison House, central London's first short-term care unit for handicapped children and youth opened its doors some six months ago, it has welcomed more than 150 visitors. Brian Rix was an especially welcome visitor, however, when he arrived, for it was his job to officially open the unit!

Alison House in Abercorn Place, St John's Wood, is a joint project of The Spastics Society, the City of Westminster Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and the Catholic Handicapped Children's Fellowship.

Brian, vice-president of the Stars Organisation for Spastics and past master of British farce, certainly appears to have enjoyed playing this role of revealing a plaque to commemorate the date.

How to dress the severely handicapped

'DRESSING for Disabled People' by Rosemary Ruston, SRN, SCM, HV, published by the Disabled Living Foundation, price £2.

This is a commonsense manual for nurses, house-parents and those who care for disabled relatives at home on the best methods to use in dressing severely handicapped people.

The main section of the book shows pictorially, with detailed verbal explanations, different ways of putting clothes on and off, with reference to various types of handicap. Other chapters deal with the motor skills required for dressing, suitable types of garment, easy-care materials, adaptations, fastenings and how to cope in the lavatory.

It can be obtained from the DLF, 346 Kensington High Street, London W14 8NS.

Enjoy your learning

THE Disabled Drivers' Association has announced plans for an autumn programme of activity at its holiday hotel, Ashwellthorpe Hall, near Norwich, Norfolk.

The programme will commence with three weekends devoted to special topics of interest with lectures and discussions led by professionals in the particular subject, all held in comfortable and informal surroundings.

Subjects in November will be: Stage in miniature; Classical music (Baroque); Photography for the amateur. Other weekends are being planned on scrabble, bridge, chess, etc.

Ashwellthorpe Hall is a beautiful moated country house set in 16 acres of wooded grounds, unobtrusively adapted for wheelchair users, and is open all the year round for disabled people, their families and friends.

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Helpers and broadcasters forge new links

TELEVISION and radio programmes of community concern such as Reports Action, Open Door and Grapevine are to get a stimulating boost following a conference in London in July.

The National Advisory Group for Voluntary Action Through Television which organised the conference has been given a list of functions that should be tackled in order to promote an effective relationship between social community and volunteer workers and broadcasters.

The group has also been asked to draft a constitution for a more broadly based and independent body to facilitate the co-operation between the social agencies and the broadcasters.

The group is to look at issues such as training to help people in social agencies to present their organisations and concerns through the media, and to develop a code of practice and guidelines for those co-operating in social concern programmes.

The follow-up problems of such programmes including handling correspondence and the mobilisation of volunteers who respond to broadcast appeals for help should also be considered.

The three day conference of 230 representatives of broadcasters, voluntary and statutory agencies was concerned to see information and research facilities developed.

Concern was expressed that the National Advisory Group in its developed form should not be a bottle-neck but open up co-operation and not inhibit new initiatives. Nor should the group become a centralised executive but aim to develop a network which could operate at both regional and local levels.

Tension evident at the conference between the differing expectations of social agencies and media production teams would be lessened if there was a better understanding of each other's role.

While the conference reflected concern for respect for the professionalism from both sides, the recognition of need for co-operation on programmes led to the proposals to set up a continuing association of broadcasters and voluntary and statutory workers.

The National Advisory Group for Voluntary Action Through Television was established at a similar conference 18 months ago.

RADAR is the name to remember

THE merger between the British Council for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled and the Central Council for the Disabled was announced in April, when the new organisation was given the working title of the British Association for Disability and Rehabilitation. Now it has become The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, and the memorable title of RADAR.

It has been difficult during the last few months for the two organisations to act as one when they operated from two different addresses, so the premises at Tavistock Square and Eccleston Square have been vacated and all BCRD and CCD staff are installed in 25 Mortimer Street, London, W1N 8AB. Tel 01-637 5400.



ROGER Reeve operates the tail-lift of a mini-bus for a chair-bound PHAB member, before the start of another outing organised by the man they call the 'human dynamo'.

Picture by courtesy of Kodak News.

Roger - the volunteer extraordinary

THE local paper calls him Hemel Hempstead's 'Mr Showbiz' but the title scarcely conveys the incredible scope of Roger Reeve's voluntary activities. He is a successful impresario, it is true, but also fund-raiser, youth counsellor, PHAB organiser, ambulance driver and tutor in social work.

He serves on umpteen committees, and is guide, philosopher and friend to hundreds of deaf and handicapped children. And all this is carried out in addition to a full-time job with Kodak.

This human dynamo, spastic and with a mild hearing defect, was born in London in 1940. In 1957, he was one of the first five trainees at The Spastics Society's Sherrards centre at Welwyn Garden City. When he was 18, he went to Kodak as a trainee film

inspector and has worked with the firm ever since.

Soon after he joined the firm, he started giving film shows in his spare time at local centres for the physically and mentally handicapped. This gradually progressed to the staging of live entertainments, with the aim of providing out-



YOUNG Tracey, both deaf and spastic, enjoys the fun of the disco. She is just one of dozens of handicapped children who are able to join in such entertainments thanks to Roger Reeve.

Rayners in Buckinghamshire, for children who are both deaf and physically handicapped. Although situated outside London, both schools are run by the Inner London Education Authority.

He serves on the committees of the two schools, Employment for Handicapped School Leavers and Hemel Hempstead Spastics Society. He is involved with St Raphael's (an establishment for the mentally handicapped), the National Children's Home at Harpenden, Cell Barnes subnormality hospital at St Albans, Hemel Hempstead's Old Age Pensioners, handicapped Scouts, two local youth clubs, and the Hemel Hempstead Operatic Society.

He also helps with the local branch of PHAB for physically handicapped and able-bodied youngsters. As the PHAB mini-bus driver he has also organised outings and holidays for members.

Roger thoroughly enjoys working with young people, and would like eventually to get a job in a school or children's home. He has attended short courses on various aspects of community service, youth work and child care. Some months ago, he was also invited to give training.

One afternoon a week he takes parties of fifth and sixth formers to Rayners or Penbury schools and supervises them in work with the handicapped children. This 10-week course gives potential social workers and houseparents some practical experience in working with the handicapped, and helps them to decide whether they like the work before applying for a college place.

The training scheme is organised by the Inner London Education Authority and Dacorum College of Further Education. In a sense the appointment is an official recognition of Roger Reeve's wide experience of working with handicapped youngsters, his valuable contribution to voluntary work and his talent for getting on with people.

ANNE PLUMMER

Victorian ideal with a modern purpose

JOHN Groom, a Londoner born in 1845, was one of the great Victorian philanthropists who pioneered independent charity organisations as we know them today. He became an apprentice in the City, the hub of a vast commercial empire spawned by the industrial revolution. Huge fortunes changed hands daily in the City's Exchanges, banks and counting houses, but for London's sick and unemployed the other side of the commercial coin often meant the most abject and hideous poverty. And apart from the dreaded work-

house there was no state aid to alleviate the sufferings of the poor.

Young John Groom was particularly concerned with the plight of the homeless and disabled young people he saw round him every day. He organised friends to help in their spare time and was only 21 when Lord Shaftesbury, himself a leading humanitarian, praised the valuable work he was doing at a small shop in Harp Alley, Farringdon.

In 1891, Groom leased a small Nonconformist chapel in Clerkenwell which, during the day, became a workshop for young crippled women, as they were then described. The venture gradually expanded into nearby buildings which pro-

vided a home and factory for some 200 girls, while another 100 lived in their own homes and came in daily to work at making artificial flowers.

In 1932, the homes and workshops moved to Edgware, where alongside more up-to-date handicrafts a thriving artificial flower industry still flourishes and millions of Alexandra roses are made for the flag day each year.

'The Time to Care,' a new film about John Groom's Association for the Disabled, was recently given a London preview. It shows that although the Association retains its traditional links with the City, especially for fund-raising and publicity, it has kept pace with the times in its approach to the needs of disabled people.

Integration with the community is now the keynote. New developments seen in the film include a swimming pool opened at Edgware in 1975 which is shared by other handicapped young people in the area and purpose-built flats where wheelchair users can lead independent lives.

Also seen in the film are some of the outdoor activities in which the present-day Edgware residents (nowadays including men) take part, such as gliding and mountaineering.

This seems a far cry from the gloomy City workshops of the 19th century, but no doubt John Groom would recognise an updated version of his philosophy — helping the disabled to help themselves.

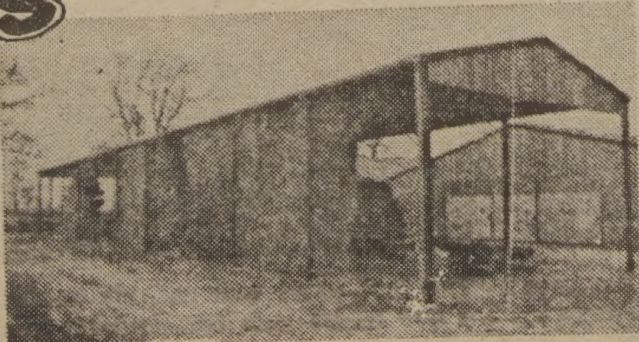
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Triumph at the Spastics Games



DENNIS Sproates, aged 22, won the Berkshire Cup for the competitor achieving the best athletic technique compatible with his handicap. Dennis, who lives at Highland Road, West Hartlepool, and a former pupil at Percy Hedley School, Newcastle-on-Tyne, also won the Newhouse Tankard, given to the competitor achieving the best result in the wheelchair races. He is pictured holding it aloft in triumph.

Dennis had outstanding success at the Games. He gained first place in distance javelin, shot, discuss, wheelchair dash and wheelchair slalom in his handicap/age grouping.



PETER Wood, age 14, of Brighton, displays the Boots Cup. Peter, who attends Patcham House School, won the cup for achieving the best time in the 200 metre races. He had other successes, too — first in the discus and precision javelin as well as the 200 metre race; second in the distance javelin and the run; and third in the club event in his group.



A TRIUMPHANT Audrey Lovegrove, 22, of Wilford View Hostel, West Bridgford, after receiving the Good Neighbours Trust Cup as the female competitor showing the greatest effort to compete in the Games. Audrey had other successes, too. She was first in the light shot, cricket ball and the 200 metre race, and gained second places in the discus, the run, and third place in the shot, in her particular handicap grouping.

Picture right shows her racing home in the 200 metre race.



Keen contest in sporting spirit

OVER 350 handicapped men, women and children from 39 special schools and centres all over England, Scotland and Wales converged on Trent Polytechnic, Clifton, Nottingham, on Saturday, July 16 and Sunday, July 17, to prove their athletic

prowess at the National Spastics Games.

A large crowd of spectators openly voiced their admiration of the courageous way that competitors overcame their handicaps to put up creditable performances in both the field and track events.

Competitors ranged from the age of 10 upwards.

Some of the successful competitors will be selected to go forward to the International Spastics Games to be held in Edinburgh from July 17 to 20, 1978. These games will be hosted by The Scottish Council for Spastics.

Competitors showed evident enjoyment of the two day sporting event, entering into the spirit of the games with enthusiasm and energy.

On the Saturday evening a party was organised which enabled all those taking part to relax after a hard day's effort.

LEFT: Alison Grenville, age 13, pictured with a certificate for her prowess in the Games. Alison, who attends Patcham House School, Brighton, was first in distance javelin, the club and run events; and second in the shot and precision javelin in her grouping.



IT'S not easy to get momentum from a wheelchair, but 13-year-old Anthony Mostyn, of Northenden, Manchester, puts heart and muscle into this throw to win the precision javelin event in his grouping at the Games. He also gained first place in the cricket ball event. Anthony attends the Spastic Society's Ingfield Manor School at Billingshurst, Sussex.

BELOW: Top Ten Promotions Ltd were well represented at the Games. Picture shows, left to right, Mr Roy Laver, Mr George Abbott, Mrs Long and Mr Kenneth Long, managing director of the famous Spastics Pool.



SHEILA Cushing, aged 17, from the Percy Hedley Centre, winning the light ball event. Sheila, of Blake-well, Newcastle, also gained first places in the distance javelin, the club, the shot, discus, cricket ball and precision javelin events in her grouping.



THE fun race! The last event was entirely unofficial, and organised on the spur of the moment . . . a 400 metre race for students from the Trent Polytechnic and staff from Society schools and centres who had helped at the Games. It also got the biggest cheer of the day — from all the grateful competitors.